



SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT
**Chippewa National Forest Resource Advisory Committee
Meeting**

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

RAC Members present:

Category A - Elmer Cone, Harold Goetzman, Brian Bignall, John Ringle, Martin Jennings

Category B - Gene Larimore, Richard Downham, Wanda Hoyum, Lindsey Ketchel

Category C – Ara Anderson, Christina Bowstring, Levi Brown, Milton Gotchie

Chippewa National Forest Staff: Darla Lenz, Todd Tisler, Chad Kirschbaum, Scott Farley, Robert LaPlant, Melissa Rickers

Public Guests: Scott Lees (White Mountain NF) and Chris Evans (Itasca SWCD)

Recorder: Melissa Rickers

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Lindsey Ketchel, RAC Chairperson

Opening Statements: Todd Tisler, Lindsey Ketchel and Darla Lenz

Introductions of RAC Members and Forest Staff and Guests:

- Review of July meeting notes, **Approved by committee**
- Reappointment of current members update
- Meeting operating guidelines

Chairperson Ketchel called for Public Testimony and Comments:

- Chris Evans, Itasca SWCD, spoke on the Purple Loosestrife Management project

Break

Summary of projects submitted: Todd Tisler

- Discussion on new construction and the Popple River Bridge falling into this category. Darla needs to look into more. Suggests having options for funding if we cannot fund it.

Lunch



Review and Discussion of Project Applications Submitted:

- ✓ Approval to fund the following without further discussion:
Motion: Brian Bignall Second: Harold Goetzman
- CNF Campground Improvements: Decision: Approved 18,000
- Purple Loosestrife Management: Decision: Approved 10,000
- West Winnie Dock Replacement: Decision: Approved 10,000
- Hunter Walking Trail Maintenance: Decision: Approved 12,000
- Snowshoe Hare Habitat Restoration: Decision: Approved 20,000
- Beltrami County NNIS Treatment Project: Decision: Approved 31,000
- Cass County Sentence to Serve Project: Decision: Approved 12,000
- Nelson Lake Access Restoration and Protection: Decision: Approved 6,000

Projects needing further discussion and concerns:

- Permanent Wildlife Openings: Decision: Approve funding 10,000
 - What is success
 - Forest will use photo points and surveys
 - Takes multiple treatments for success
- Chippewa Suomi Hills Vault Restroom Replacement: Decision Approve funding: 30,000
 - Scope is small
 - If doesn't get funded it will go on list as infrastructure for future funding
- Popple River Bridge/ Village Road Connection: Decision: Approve funding: 18,318
 - Is this is a fundable project because it is new construction
 - 19,000 left propose it is funded at that
- Big Fork /Balsam ATV Route: Decision Approve funding: 15,000
 - Resent not part of NEPA – Forest road maintenance has an internal NEPA process
 - Locals should pay for – local governments
 - 100,000 grant guaranteed
 - One opposed – G. Larimore



Extra Funds Guidelines:

- ✓ **IF the Popple River Bridge/ Village Road Construction project has unused funds or project cannot be funded according to RAC guidelines and requirements, THEN the \$18,318 will be distributed to the following two projects: **Unanimous Committee Approval****

1. Campground Improvement \$7,000 (then funded at maximum)
2. Cass County Sentence to serve another: \$11,318 additional

- ✓ **Other turned back money should go towards the following projects in this order: **Unanimous Committee Approval****

- 1) Popple River Bridge (IF fundable give any extra funds to fund at minimum request of \$25,000)
- 2) Campgrounds Improvements – those within Cass County (all other extra funds)

Closing Comments: Todd Tisler

- Recognition was given to outgoing RAC member Harold Goetzman for his years of service THANK YOU Harold.
- Todd will send quarterly updates to RAC members
- Need mileage forms signed to get reimbursed
- Once Forest Supervisor, Darla Lenz, approves the project list, project applicants will be notified by letter if they were funded and amount.

Meeting Adjourned by Lindsey Ketchell at 1:37 p.m.

